



Scott McCallum
Governor

Volume 13, No. 1 **A Publication of the DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD** **MAY, 2001**

MISSION OF THE WISCONSIN DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD

“To protect the dental health and well being of the public and facilitate access to safe and adequate dental care for all citizens of Wisconsin.”

Secretary Marlene Cummings Retires

Governor Tommy G. Thompson announced that Marlene Cummings retired after serving 14 years as Secretary of the Department of Regulation and Licensing to pursue private interests.

Governor Thompson thanked Secretary Cummings for her years of outstanding work and guidance on licensing issues.

Secretary Cummings, who retired from state service on February 25, 2001, had served with Governor Thompson since the beginning of his administration and was one of his first cabinet appointments.

“Marlene truly is a great friend, a great leader and a source of stability within the administration,” Governor Thompson said. “We will miss her sound judgment and her innovative ideas. She has worked well with the licensing boards and her resignation will be a great loss for hundreds of board members and the entire state of Wisconsin.”

Governor Thompson said Secretary Cummings has had an extremely successful tenure that emphasized changes in the handling of disciplinary complaints and adopted innovative disciplinary procedures. Her innovations have included an agency time-line for handling complaints, the use of mandated education and a procedure for managing professionals with drug and alcohol addictions.

“My 14 years of service in Governor Thompson’s administration have been both inspiring and challenging,” Secretary Cummings said. “We were often at the forefront of significant business and health care developments.” Secretary Cummings also thanked Governor Thompson for his encouragement and the opportunity to serve, and wished him great success as a member of President Bush’s cabinet.

Secretary Cummings says she is retiring to devote more time to her family. She said that she also needs more time for research and writing.

THE WISCONSIN DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD



Members of the Board:

Bruce J. Barrette, D.D.S., Chair (Peshtigo)
Richard J. Strand, D.D.S., Vice-Chair (La Crosse)
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Oscar Herrera, Secretary
William Conway, Acting Secretary
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CONTENTS

Secretary Cummings Retires	1
2001 Dentistry Board Elections.....	2
Prescription Pad Security	2
Release of Dental Records.....	2
Visit the Department’s Website.....	2
Vaccines for Dental Health Care Workers	2
Outline of the Case Handling Process	3
Local Anesthetic Administration by Dental Hygienists ...	3
New Workplace Employment Posting Required	4
Important Message from Workforce Development	4
Disciplinary Actions	4
Telephone Directory and Miscellaneous	6

2001 Dentistry Examining Board Elections

As the new 2001 year began for the Board on January 3rd, so did our election of officers. Congratulations to the following Board members in their one year officer positions:

Chairperson: Dr. Bruce Barrette
Vice Chairperson: Dr. Richard Strand
Secretary: Nanette Kosydar Dreves, RDH, BS

Other positions of responsibility include:

Legislative Liaison: Dr. Wilbur Gill
DOE Monitoring Liaison: Dr. Wilbur Gill
IPP Liaison: Judith Ficks
Digest Advisor: Nanette Kosydar Dreves, RDH, BS
CRDTS Steering Committee: Dr. Richard Strand
CRDTS ERC Committee: Dr. Bruce Barrette

Screening Panel: Dr. Mark Curran, Chairperson
N. Kosydar Dreves, RDH, BS
Judith Ficks
Staff from Division of Enforcement

Prescription Pad Security

All prescription pads should be kept in a secure location. It is highly recommended that they not be left in open drawers in operatories where patients may be left alone for any period of time. Placing them behind locked cabinet doors or drawers is advisable and/or in the pocket of the doctor.

Preprinted prescription pads are easily altered and are therefore discouraged by the Board for drugs that have any potential for abuse or inappropriate utilization by a patient.

In addition, all offices are encouraged to maintain close scrutiny and security of customized signature stamps. It is the Board's experience that they have been used in the past to forge prescriptions.

Release of Dental Records

If you receive a notice from the DRL that a complaint has been filed against you under RL 2.09(4) you must respond within 20 days. The Board, on occasion, has heard from credential holders that they are unable to send records because a patient owes a balance on an account or because the dentist is too busy. These excuses are unacceptable. In fact, a failure to reply is in and of itself cause to warrant discipline.

According to DE 5.02(25) Standard of Conduct, Unprofessional Conduct is defined as:

“After a request by the Board, failing to cooperate in a timely manner with the Board's investigation of complaints filed against the applicant or licensee.”

We strongly encourage all credential holders to cooperate with the DRL in a timely and complete manner.

Visit the Department's Web Site

The Department of Regulation and Licensing's web site address is www.drl.state.wi.us. There you can find information about the department, Dentistry Examining Board, learn how to obtain a Wisconsin dental license, read the latest issue of the Regulatory Digest including current disciplinary actions, and much more!

Vaccines for Dental Health Care Workers-CDC Guideline Highlight

The CDC recommends that **all dental health care workers who might be exposed to blood or blood-contaminated substances in an occupational setting be vaccinated for HBV** (Hepatitis B Virus). Dental health care workers also are at risk for exposure to and possible transmission of other vaccine-preventable diseases; accordingly, vaccination against influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, and tetanus may be appropriate for these direct care workers. (The HBV vaccine is also required by the OSHA bloodborne pathogen final rule – employers must make this available at no cost. The other vaccines are not a requirement, only a recommendation, and therefore not compulsory.)

Who should be vaccinated? Clearly, anyone who may come in contact with infectious materials – blood or saliva-contaminated materials. If a receptionist occasionally sits in for a chairside dental assistant, s/he is at risk. If part of the duties for the office manager is to take x-rays or simply process them, s/he is at risk. Any staff member or employee who empties potentially biohazardous garbage (from the operatories, sterilization area, lab, etc.), is at risk.

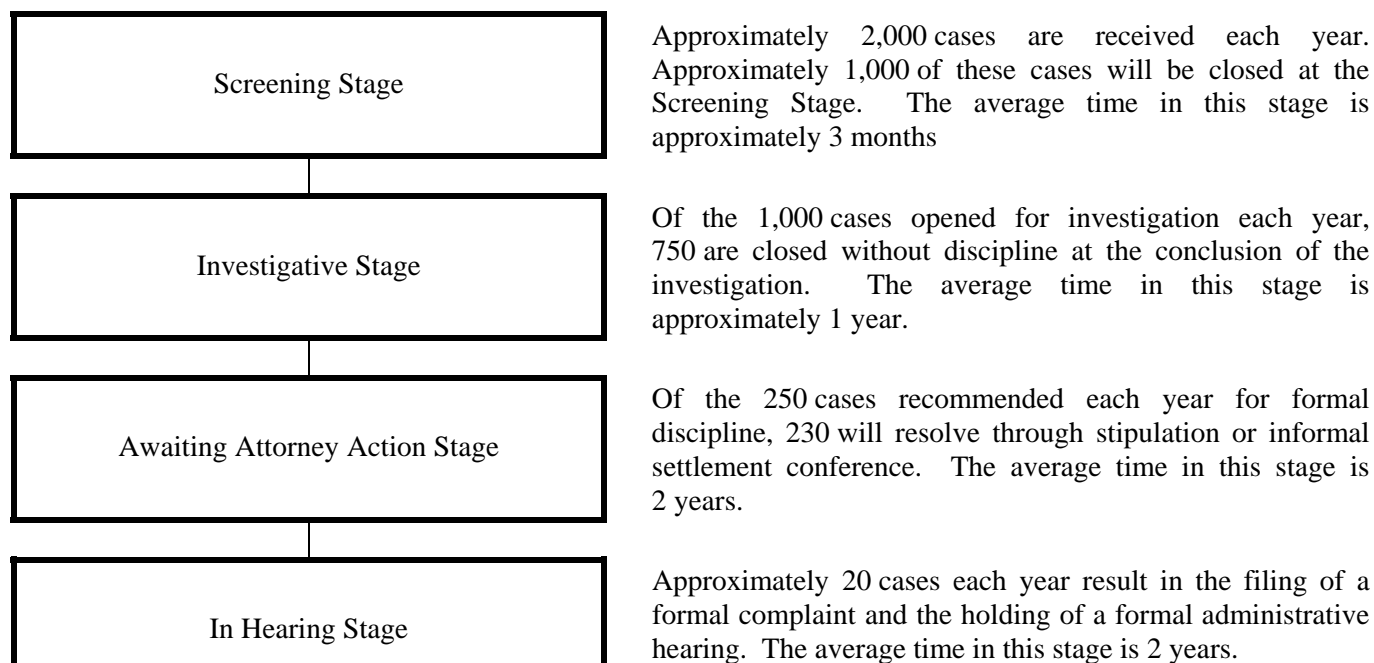
Clearly delineate duties and responsibilities for your staff with a job description. In that way, it will not only be apparent who should be vaccinated, but also who will be responsible for the duties that require exposure to blood or other potentially infectious (contaminated) materials(s).

Credential holders often ask if they are required to obtain the HBV for secretaries or receptionists who handle dental charts. They are not required to obtain one due to the lack of potential exposure in their jobs. However, it is prudent behavior for all clinical staff members who do handle charts to keep them clean and to keep contaminated gloved hands and masks away from the reception area.

Remember, patients bring in broken dentures, retainers, crowns, etc. that are contaminated. The receptionist(s) should simply provide the patient with a small zipper-type plastic bag for the item. Do not offer to take these items with a tissue or open hand. Placing a box of gloves in the front desk area for use by staff is another option.

Other bloodborne pathogen vaccines are still being researched, e.g., Hepatitis C. Your infection control strategies should be consistent with universal standard precautions for blood and bodily fluids and used consistently for **all patients**. These will protect you, your staff, and your dental patients.

Outline of the Case Handling Process



Local Anesthetic Administration by Dental Hygienists

The Board recently adopted a new rule regarding the administration of local anesthesia by dental hygienists. Under section DE 7, Wis. Admin. Code, dentists may now delegate the administration of local anesthesia to a hygienist provided that all of the following requirements have been met:

1. The hygienist has a current license to practice dental hygiene in Wisconsin;
2. The hygienist provides evidence of current qualification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation from either the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross;
3. The hygienist has completed the required educational training for the administration of local anesthesia; and
4. The hygienist submits a completed application form.

A dentist who delegates this procedure is nevertheless responsible for the hygienist's performance. Furthermore, a dentist is required to remain on the premises and must be available to the patient throughout the completion of the appointment when local anesthesia is administered. Dentists do not have the authority to delegate this procedure to any other health professionals, except to dental hygienists who meet the above criteria.

Dentists and Registered Dental Hygienists who meet this criteria are the only dental health professionals with the authority to administer local anesthesia upon delegation.

New Workplace Employment Posting Required

A workplace employment posting is now required in Wisconsin work sites employing health care workers. A new Wisconsin law effective June 1, 2000, creates specific employment protection from retaliation for health care workers who report

violations of state or federal laws, rules or regulations to enforcement authorities. Further, the retaliation protection extends to health care workers who report situations in which standards of care, based upon either law or professionally recognized

accrediting standards, are violated in a way that pose a potential risk to public health or safety.

Work sites required to display the posting include: hospitals, nursing homes, community based residential facilities, and county operated health care facilities. Further, dentists, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists and other professional counselors, optometrists and chiropractic offices are covered by the posting requirement. Pharmacies, hospices and home health agencies, and emergency medical first responders also must display the posting. Failure of a covered employer to post the required posting will result in a \$100 fine. Further, covered employers are required to inform their employees of the rights and remedies available to them under Act 176.

For a poster or a complete listing of all workplaces covered by the law, contact John Metcalf at WMC, (608) 258-3400, or e-mail jmetcalf@wmc.org. Visit the WMC website, www.wmc.org, where you can review all the provisions of 1999 Wisconsin Act 176, as well as the required posting.

Important Message From the Department of Workforce Development

Failure to pay court-ordered child support may result in the suspension or non-renewal of professional licenses, including those issued by the Department of Regulation and Licensing and regulatory boards.

"To keep your teeth in good condition, see your dentist twice a year...and mind your own business."
Ann Landers

Disciplinary Actions

JOHN N BONNELL DDS

APPLETON WI

SURRENDERED/LIMITED/COSTS

Placed crowns that did not fit properly and had large overhangs. Failed to identify poorly fitting crowns. Failed to develop treatment plans. Discharged patient with a prescription for penicillin when he knew the patient was allergic to penicillin. Failed to obtain and record competent dental histories. Failed to advise patients of alternative treatment options. Failed to conduct minimally competent general dental examinations.

Recently enacted Wisconsin laws (mandated by the federal government) give local child support agencies the ability to request suspension or denial of licenses of people whose names appear on the Child Support Lien Docket and who owe more than \$1,000 or three months' worth of child support.

Past-due child support creates a lien against all of a payer's titled property. The lien is entered into the Wisconsin's Child Support Lien Docket when past-due support reaches a specified threshold. In October 2000, the threshold was \$30,000 in past-due support. It is being lowered in stages; the subsequent stage, in January 2001, is \$20,000.

Child support agencies will notify payers at the time their names are added to the Child Support Lien Docket and prior to initiating license suspension action. Satisfaction (payment in full) of the child support lien, or entering into and complying with a plan to pay off the past-due support, will halt license suspension action.

For more information about Child Support Liens and license suspension, please contact your local child support agency.

License limited on 1/3/2001. Surrenders his license effective 2/28/2001. Sec. 447.07(3)(a),(h), Stats. DE 5.02(5) Case #LS0010101DEN

RICHARD L WALK DDS

CHIPPEWA FALLS WI

COSTS

Failed to fully and consistently document in a patient's record the results of periodontal probings of the pocket depths, although record of some pocket depths were so noted in the chart. Effective 7/12/2000. Sec. 447.07(3)(a), Stats. DE 5.02(5) Case #LS9910261DEN

MICHAEL J GREGOR DDS
MELLEN WI REPRIMAND/COSTS

Issued prescription orders to an employee for the controlled substance Vicodin, for medical conditions, because the employee said he could not afford medical treatment. Did not maintain records of these prescriptions. Effective 7/12/2000. Sec. 447.07(3)(a), Stats. DE 5.02(3),(5),(6) Case #LS0007121DEN

KIRK D ALMENDINGER DDS
FOREST LAKE MN

REPRIMAND/LIMITED/COSTS

License expired 9/30/99. Between 10/1/99 and continuing through 3/12/2000, practiced without a current license. In May of 1999 the board issued an order imposing conditions upon the grant of renewal based upon findings that between 11/13/97 and 8/31/98 he had practiced without current license registration. Ordered to complete at least 100 hours of community service by 9/6/2001. Effective 9/6/2000. Secs. 447.03(1), 447.07(3)(a), (f), Stats. Case #LS0009061DEN

LAURA J WIMMER RDH
ELKHORN WI FORFEITURES

Worked part-time as a dental hygienist during a period of time when her license had expired. Pay a \$500.00 forfeiture. Effective 12/4/2000. Secs. 447.03(2), 447.07(3)(f), Stats. Case #LS0012042DEN

LAWRENCE STEWART DAVIS DDS
COLUMBIA MO SURRENDERED

Habitually self-administered and inhaled nitrous oxide over an undetermined period of time. Effective 12/4/2000.

Sec. 447.07(3)(a), (f), (g), Stats. DE 5.02(1), (4), (14) Case #LS0012041DEN

DEBRA A BADOFSKY
KENOSHA WI

Convicted for misdemeanor theft of movable property. Her conduct since the convictions satisfactorily establish that her rehabilitation is complete and she may safely and competently practice as a dental hygienist. Granted a limited license to practice dental hygiene. Effective 1/3/2001. Case #LS0007261DEN

2001 Meeting Dates

8:30 a.m., Room 179A, 1400 E. Washington Ave., Madison, WI

May 2, July 11, September 5, November 7.

REGULATORY DIGEST

PRESORT STD
U.S. Postage
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Telephone Directory

Automated phone system for the Bureau of Health Professions: (608) 266-2811.

Press 1 **Request Application**

Press 2 **Status of a Pending Application**

Press 3 **Complaint Filing Information**

Press 4 **Verifying Current Status of a Credential Holder**

Press 5 **Name or Address Change
Need Duplicate License
Request a Letter of Good Standing**

Press 6 **Repeat Menu Choices**

Fax: (608) 261-7083

Quick Keys

The following voice mail “**short cuts**” could be sent out with renewal notices and/or otherwise published:

To request a license application for your profession, just dial (608) 266-2811, then enter the Quick Key numbers below for the profession you want:

Dental Hygienist:	Press 1-3-2
Local Anesthesia:	Press 1-3-2
Dentist:	Press 1-3-3
Re-Registration	Press 1-1-2
(Any profession expired 5 years or more)	

Verifications

Verifications are now available online at www.drl.state.wi.us. Once you have accessed the Department website, please click on “Business and Professional License Lookup.”

If you do not use the online system, then all requests for verification of licenses/credentials should be submitted in writing. There is no charge for this service. Requests should be sent to the Department address or may be faxed to (608) 261-7083, Attention: Verifications.

Endorsements:

Requests for endorsements to other states must be in writing. The cost is \$10. Please make check or money order payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

Visit the Department’s Web Site:

<http://www.drl.state.wi.us>

Send comments to dorl@drl.state.wi.us

Digest on Web Site:

November, 1997, September, 1998, April, 1999, November, 1999, March 2000, October, 2000 are on the Web.

Wisconsin Statutes and Code:

Copies of the Dentistry Examining Board Statutes and Administrative Code can be ordered from the Department. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The latest Edition is dated February, 2001.

Change of Name or Address?

Please photocopy the mailing label of this digest, make changes in name or address, and return it to the Department. Confirmation of changes are not automatically provided.

WIS. STATS. S. 440.11 ALLOWS FOR A \$50 PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

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